(b) whether it is a fact that 11,000 applications for Excel connections and 15,000 applications for telephone connections are pending in Bulandshaher district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) by when the waiting list would be cleared and the action being taken by Government to avoid pendency of application in large number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of applications pending for prepaid cellular connections (Excel) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) all over the country is 13,22,172.

(b) No application for Excel is pending in Bulandshaher district of Uttar Pradesh. However, there are 9,724 registrants in waiting list for Land Line connections in the district.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of augmenting the mobile network of Uttar Pradesh by 1.2 Million lines and to provide necessary infrastructure items such as cable, Wireless Local Loop systems to meet the landline demand. Existing waiting list is likely to be cleared during the current financial year.

Speed Post facility in U.P. and Chhattisgarh

†3162. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are still deprived of the speed post facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-availability of speed post facility; and

(d) by when speed post facility would be made available in all these district headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. All the 70 Districts in Uttar Pradesh and 16 districts of Chhattisgarh have been covered under Speed Post facility, either by National/State Speed Post Centres or by extension counters.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Indians in Pakistani jails

3163. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indians are languishing in the Pakistani jails since long;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise;

(c) the names and addresses of persons belonging to Punjab State; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available information, there are about 923 civilian prisoners, 371 fishermen and 54 Prisoners of War in Pakistani jails.

However, Pakistan has acknowledged the presence of 182 civilian prisoners only. The State-wise breakup is: Assam-1; Bihar-3; Delhi-2; Gujarat-6; Haryana-16; Himachal Pradesh-5; Jammu & Kashmir-23; Kerala-1; Madhya Pradesh-1; Maharashtra-3; Orissa-1; Punjab-102; Rajasthan-4; Tamil Nadu-1; Uttar Pradesh-12; and West Bengal-1.

The State-wise break up for fishermen is: Andhra Pradesh-5; Bihar-2; Daman-4; Diu-85; Goa-5; Gujarat-233; Kerala-4; Madhya Pradesh-1; Maharashtra-16; Tamil Nadu-10 and Uttar Pradesh-6.

Pakistan Government does not acknowledge the presence of any Indian Prisoners of War in Pakistan.

(c) The names and addresses of persons belonging to Punjab State are given in the statement (see below).

(d) The Government is persistently taking up the matter of release of Indian prisoners through diplomatic channels, both in New Delhi and Islamabad, and during high level contacts from time to time.

During the foreign Secretary level talks held on December 27-28, 2004 at Islamabad it was agreed that immediate notification would be provided to the respective High Commissions through the Foreign Ministries